

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF LIZARD FROM FLORIDA.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER,

Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians, U. S. National Museum.

The North American fauna is not rich in skinks compared with the rest of the world. The late Prof. E. D. Cope recognized no less than 79 genera in the family Scincidæ, of which only four are represented on the continent north of Panama and only two within the confines of the United States, namely, *Leiolopisma* and *Eumeces*. Hitherto not a single form was known from North America corresponding to the many degraded types so frequent in the Old World, in which the limbs have been reduced to mere stumps with a greatly diminished number of digits.

The discovery of such a form in Florida is therefore highly interesting and significant. The fact that this small worm-like creature has been overlooked so long may be due partly to its burrowing habits, but it can scarcely be doubted that the animal is very rare. Mr. A. G. Reynolds, who has generously donated the unique specimen to the National Museum, and for whom the species has been named, states expressly that a search for others was made in the same locality without results.

NEOSEPS, new genus.

Diagnosis.—Nostril between two nasals; supranasals present; palatine bones separated on the median line of the palate; no frontoparietals; eyelids movable; lower eyelid with a large transparent disk; ear hidden; fore feet with one, hind feet with two toes.

Type.—*Neoseps reynoldsi*.

This genus is probably nearest related to *Sphenoscincus*, which occurs in eastern Persia, Afganistan, and the northwestern corner of India. *Sphenoscincus tridactylus* has three toes on all feet and differs in many other respects, but it bears a certain strong outward resemblance to the Florida species here described. The true relationship of the latter, however, must remain undecided until the acquisition of more material shall allow a closer anatomical examination to be made.

NEOSEPS REYNOLDSI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Snout wedge-shaped with angular labial edge; five supralabials; one large temporal; three supraoculars; 16 scale rows around the body.

Habitat.—Florida.

Type-specimen.—Cat. No. 42147, U.S.N.M.; near Spring Lake, Fruitland Park, Lake County, Florida; A. G. Reynolds, collector.

Description of type specimen (figs. 1–6).—Snout wedge-shaped, with angular projecting labial edge; mouth inferior; nostril between two small nasals, the anterior crescent-shaped, the posterior triangular, both situated between rostral, supranasal, and first supralabial; rostral large; supranasals large, broadly in contact behind the rostral and with the first supralabial, separating the posterior nasal from the loreal; fronto-nasal large, broadly in contact with loreal and anterior supraocular; frontal large, slightly longer than broad, anterior and posterior margins convex forward, lateral margins concave, in contact with all the supraoculars; three small, nearly subequal supra-

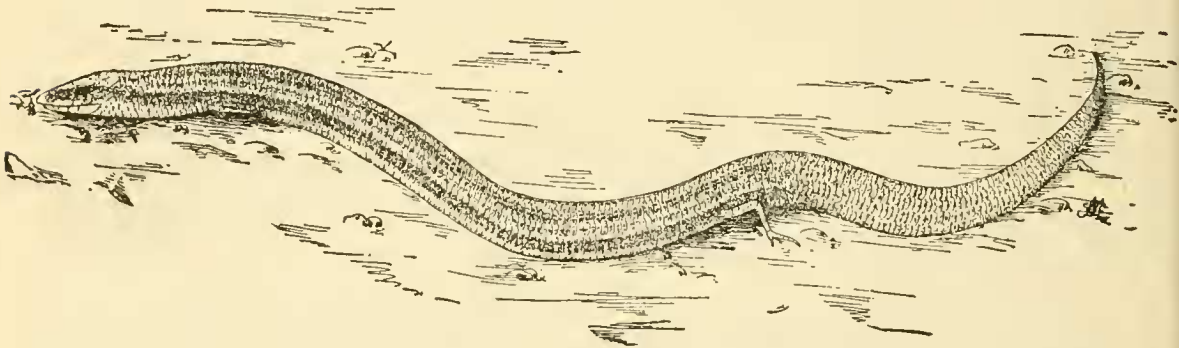
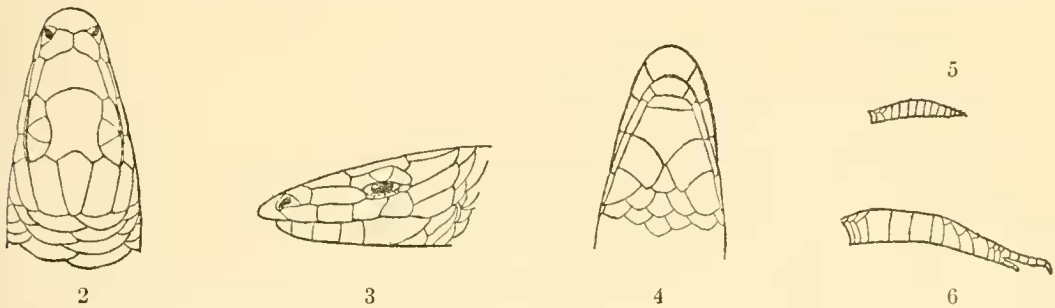


FIG. 1.—NEOSEPS REYNOLDSI. $1\frac{1}{3} \times$ NAT. SIZE. NO. 42147, U. S. N. M.

oculars, the median one triangular, its outer angle just reaching the superciliary border; no superciliaries; no fronto-parietals; parietals nearly as long as frontal, well-developed, with parallel sides, and entirely separated by the interparietal, which equals them in width anteriorly, narrowing to a blunt point posteriorly; one pair of nuchals, not much larger than nearest dorsals; loreal single, three times as long as high, anteriorly widely separated from posterior nasal by supranasal, posteriorly entering eye; lower eyelid with a large transparent disk; eye separated from supralabials by a row of about four small scales; a small postocular; a single, very large temporal shield between the last supralabial and the parietal, bordering the entire lateral margin of the latter; five large supralabials of subequal length, third and fourth under eye, first, second, and third in contact with loreal; four lower labials increasing in size posteriorly; two unpaired postmentals, the second very large; behind these on either side two large shields in contact with the lower labials; 16 rows of smooth scales around the body, the two median series wider than the others,

considerably so anteriorly; two large preanal shields; fore leg rudimentary, consisting of a short, slender style ending in a small claw; distance between axilla and groin twenty times the length of the fore leg; hind leg diminutive, slender, ending in two short, clawed toes; median series of scales on underside of tail (reproduced) slightly widened. Color (in alcohol) above pale purplish drab, each scale with a dark brown median spot, so as to form four series of beady dark lines, separated by pale stripes, the median ones being wider than the others; sides similarly colored, but darker, so as to form a continuous broad, dark band from nostril through eye, above legs to side of tail;



FIGS. 2-6.—NEOSEPS REYNOLDSI. $3 \times$ NAT. SIZE. 2, TOP OF HEAD; 3, SIDE OF HEAD; 4, UNDERSIDE OF HEAD; 5, FORE LEG; 6, HIND LEG. NO. 42147, U. S. N. M.

the reproduced part of latter paler drab, evenly dusted over with small, black spots; head above uniform dark drab; underside uniform pale.

Dimensions.

	<i>mm.</i>
Total length.....	85
Tip of snout to vent.....	58
Vent to tip of tail (reproduced).....	27
Width of head.....	4.5
Tip of snout to fore leg.....	14
Axilla to groin.....	40
Fore leg.....	2
Hind leg.....	6
Longest toe with claw.....	1.5